

CLAIMS

1 1. An apparatus for supporting couplers for removable coupling to a
2 recipient during therapy administration and/or recipient monitoring, the apparatus comprising
3 a support member configured to rest on a body of the recipient, the support member having a
4 first coupler location proximate to a first coupling position of the body of the recipient, the
5 support member further having a second coupler location proximate to a second coupling
6 position of the body of the recipient, the first coupler location being configured to removably
7 carry a first coupler, the second coupler location being configured to removably carry a
8 second coupler, the support member being spaced apart from the first and second coupling
9 positions when resting on the body of the recipient.

1 2. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
2 a first engagement member depending from the support member at the first
3 coupler location and configured to removably carry the first coupler; and
4 a second engagement member depending from the support member at the
5 second coupler location and configured to removably carry the second coupler.

1 3. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising the first and second
2 couplers.

1 4. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising:
2 the first coupler, wherein the first coupler is moveable relative to the first
3 coupler location between an attached position with the first coupler engaged with the support
4 member at the first coupler location, a detached position with the first coupler disengaged
5 from the first coupler location, and a coupled position with the first coupler operatively
6 coupled to the recipient at the first coupling position, the first coupler having an electrical
7 contact positioned to connect to a percutaneous electrical probe inserted into the patient; and
8 a flexible cable connected between the first coupler and the support member,
9 the cable remaining connected between the first coupler and the support member when the

10 first coupler is moved from the attached position to the detached position and the coupled
11 position.

12 5. The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising the first coupler and
13 wherein the first coupler is configured to transmit electrical signals to the recipient when the
14 first coupler is coupled to the recipient at the first coupling position.

15 6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the support member is shaped to rest
16 on at least one of a back, a neck, a head and a leg of the recipient.

17 7. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first and second coupling positions
18 are two of a larger plurality of coupling positions and the first and second coupler locations
19 are two of a larger plurality of coupler locations, further wherein an outline of the coupling
20 positions defines a first shape and an outline of the coupler locations defines a corresponding
21 second shape at least generally similar to the first shape.

22 8. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the first coupler location is positioned
23 closer than the second coupler location to the first coupling location.

24 9. An apparatus for supporting couplers for removable coupling to a
25 recipient during therapy administration and/or recipient monitoring, the apparatus comprising
26 a support member configured to rest on a body of the recipient, the support member being
27 elongated along a support member axis and having a first coupler location proximate to a
28 first coupling position of the body of the recipient when the support member rests on the
29 body of the recipient, the support member further having a second coupler location
30 proximate to a second coupling position of the body of the recipient when the support
31 member rests on the body of the recipient, the first coupler location being configured to
32 removably carry a first coupler, the second coupler location being configured to removably
33 carry a second coupler, the first coupler location being positioned closer than the second
34 coupler location to the support member axis.

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10. The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising:
a first engagement member depending from the support member at the first
coupler location and configured to removably carry the first coupler; and
a second engagement member depending from the support member at the
second coupler location and configured to removably carry the second coupler.

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11. The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising the first and second
couplers.

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12. The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising:
the first coupler, wherein the first coupler is moveable relative to the first
coupler location between an attached position with the first coupler engaged with the support
member at the first coupler location, a detached position with the first coupler disengaged
from the first coupler location, and a coupled position with the first coupler operatively
coupled to the recipient at the first coupling position, the first coupler having an electrical
contact positioned to connect to a percutaneous electrical probe inserted into the patient; and
a flexible cable connected between the first coupler and the support member,
the cable remaining connected between the first coupler and the support member when the
first coupler is moved from the attached position to the detached position and the coupled
position.

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13. The apparatus of claim 9, further comprising the first coupler and
wherein the first coupler is configured to transmit electrical signals to the recipient when the
first coupler is coupled to the recipient at the first coupling position.

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14. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the support member is shaped to rest
on at least one of a back, a neck, a head and a leg of the recipient.

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15. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the first and second coupling positions
are two of a larger plurality of coupling positions and the first and second coupler locations
are two of a larger plurality of coupler locations, further wherein an outline of the coupling

4 positions defines a first shape and an outline of the coupler locations defines a corresponding
5 second shape at least generally similar to the first shape.

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16. An apparatus for supporting couplers for removable coupling to a recipient during therapy administration and/or recipient monitoring, the apparatus comprising a support member configured to rest on a body of the recipient, the support member having a first coupler location proximate to a first coupling position of the body of the recipient, the support member further having a second coupler location proximate to a second coupling position of the body of the recipient, the first coupler location being configured to removably carry a first coupler, the second coupler location being configured to removably carry a second coupler, the first coupler location being positioned closer than the second coupler location to the first coupling position of the body of the recipient.

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17. The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising:
a first engagement member depending from the support member at the first coupler location and configured to removably carry the first coupler; and
a second engagement member depending from the support member at the second coupler location and configured to removably carry the second coupler.

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18. The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising the first and second couplers.

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19. The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising:
the first coupler, wherein the first coupler is moveable relative to the first coupler location between an attached position with the first coupler engaged with the support member at the first coupler location, a detached position with the first coupler disengaged from the first coupler location, and a coupled position with the first coupler operatively coupled to the recipient at the first coupling position, the first coupler having an electrical contact positioned to connect to a percutaneous electrical probe inserted into the patient; and
a flexible cable connected between the first coupler and the support member, the cable remaining connected between the first coupler and the support member when the

10 first coupler is moved from the attached position to the detached position and the coupled
11 position.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising the first coupler and
2 wherein the first coupler is configured to receive electrical signals from the recipient when
3 the first coupler is coupled to the recipient at the first coupling position.

1 21. The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising the first coupler, and
2 wherein the first coupler is configured to provide liquid medicament to the recipient when
3 the first coupler is coupled to the recipient at the first coupling position.

1 22. The apparatus of claim 16, further comprising the first coupler and
2 wherein the first coupler is configured to transmit electrical signals to the recipient when the
3 first coupler is coupled to the recipient at the first coupling position.

1 23. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the support member includes a cavity
2 at the first coupler location positioned to receive at least a portion of the first coupler.

1 24. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the support member includes a
2 column at the first coupler location positioned to be received in an aperture of the first
3 coupler.

1 25. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the support member is shaped to rest
2 on at least one of a back, a neck, a head and a leg of the recipient.

1 26. The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the first and second coupling
2 positions are two of a larger plurality of coupling positions and the first and second coupler
3 locations are two of a larger plurality of coupler locations, further wherein an outline of the
4 coupling positions defines a first shape and an outline of the coupler locations defines a
5 corresponding second shape at least generally similar to the first shape.

1 27. An apparatus for supporting couplers for removable coupling to a
2 recipient during therapy administration and/or recipient monitoring, the apparatus
3 comprising:

4 a support member configured to rest on a body of the recipient proximate to a
5 coupling region, the support member having a first engagement location proximate to a first
6 coupling position on the body of the recipient and a second engagement location proximate
7 to a second coupling position on the body of the recipient;

8 a first engagement member configured to removably carry a first coupler at the
9 first engagement location of the support member, and

10 a second engagement member configured to removably carry a second coupler
11 at the second engagement location of the support member, the first engagement member
12 being positioned closer than the second engagement member to the first coupling position.

1 28. The apparatus of claim 27, further comprising:

2 the first coupler, wherein the first coupler is moveable relative to the support
3 member between an attached position with the first coupler engaged with the first
4 engagement member, a detached position with the first coupler disengaged from the first
5 engagement member, and a coupled position with the first coupler operatively coupled to the
6 recipient at the first coupling position, the first coupler having an electrical contact
7 positioned to connect to a percutaneous electrical probe inserted into the patient; and

8 a flexible cable connected between the first coupler and the support member,
9 the cable remaining connected between the first coupler and the support member when the
10 first coupler is moved from the attached position to the detached position and the coupled
11 position.

1 29. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the support member has a central
2 axis, a first elongated portion positioned along the central axis, a second elongated portion
3 extending transversely to the central axis on first and second sides of the central axis, and a
4 third elongated portion positioned between the first and second elongated portions and
5 extending transversely to the central axis on the first and second sides of the central axis,
6 further wherein the first and second engagement members are positioned on one of the

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7 elongated portions, with the first engagement member including a post positioned on the first
8 side of the central axis and the second engagement member including a post positioned on
9 the second side of the central axis.

1 30. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the first coupler is configured to
2 receive electrical signals from the recipient when the first coupler is coupled to the recipient
3 at the first coupling position.

1 31. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the first coupler is configured to
2 provide liquid medicament to the recipient when the first coupler is coupled to the recipient
3 at the first coupling position.

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1 32. The apparatus of claim 27, further comprising:
2 the first coupler, wherein the first coupler is moveable relative to the support
3 member between an attached position with the first coupler engaged with the first
4 engagement member, a detached position with the first coupler disengaged from the first
5 engagement member, and a coupled position with the first coupler operatively coupled to the
6 recipient at the first coupling position; and

7 a flexible link connected between the first coupler and the support member, the
8 link remaining connected between the first coupler and the support member when the first
9 coupler is moved from the attached position to the detached position and the coupled
10 position.

1 33. The apparatus of claim 32 wherein the link includes an electrical cable
2 configured to be coupled to a source of electrical pulses to transmit percutaneous electrical
3 stimulation pulses to the first coupler.

1 34. The apparatus of claim 32 wherein the link includes an electrical cable
2 configured to be coupled to a signal monitor to monitor electrical signals received at the first
3 coupler from the recipient.

1 35. The apparatus of claim 32 wherein the link includes a length of tubing
2 configured to be coupled to a source of liquid medicament.

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A* 36. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the first coupler has an aperture and
wherein the first engagement member includes a column projecting away from the support
member and positioned to be received in the aperture of the first coupler.

1 37. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the support member is flexible and
2 resilient to conform to a surface of the body.

1 38. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the support member is shaped to rest
2 on at least one of a back, a neck, a head and a leg of the recipient.

1 39. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the first engagement member has a
2 cavity positioned to receive at least a portion of the first coupler.

1 40. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein an arrangement of the first and
2 second engagement members corresponds at least approximately to an arrangement of the
3 first and second coupling positions.

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A* 41. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the first and second coupling
positions are two of a larger plurality of coupling positions and the first and second
engagement members are two of a larger plurality of engagement members, further wherein
an outline of the coupling positions defines a first shape and an outline of the engagement
members defines a corresponding second shape at least generally similar to the first shape.

1 42. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the first and second coupling
2 positions are two of a larger plurality of coupling positions located on first and second sides
3 of a central axis, and wherein the first and second engagement members are two of a larger
4 plurality of engagement members arranged in two rows on opposite sides of the central axis.

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43. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the first and second coupling positions each have a longitudinal location along a body longitudinal axis and a lateral location transverse to the body longitudinal axis, and wherein the support member has a central support member axis generally aligned with body longitudinal axis during operation, further wherein the first engagement member has a longitudinal location and a lateral location relative to the central support member axis that correspond to the longitudinal and lateral locations of the first coupling position relative to the body longitudinal axis, still further wherein the second engagement member has a longitudinal location and a lateral location relative to the central support member axis that correspond to the longitudinal and lateral locations of the second coupling position relative to the body longitudinal axis.

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44. The apparatus of claim 27, further comprising the first and second couplers.

Sub A 1/2

45. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein at least a portion of the first engagement member has a first color and at least a portion of the second engagement member has a second color different than the first color.

Sub A 1/2

46. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the first engagement member has a visual indicator corresponding to the first coupling position.

Sub A 2/3

47. The apparatus of claim 27, further comprising the first coupler and wherein the first coupler includes an electrical connector positioned to make electrical contact with a percutaneous probe at the first coupling position.

Sub B 1/2

48. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the support member includes a flexible, bio-compatible material.

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49. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the support member includes a generally flat, rigid material.

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2 50. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the first coupler includes an
electrically conductive clamp.

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2 51. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the first coupler includes an
electrically conductive alligator clip.

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2 52. The apparatus of claim 27 wherein the first coupler includes an actuator
tool to insert a percutaneous electrode in the recipient.

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2 53. An apparatus for supporting a plurality of percutaneous probe couplers
in position for removable coupling to a recipient, comprising:

1
2 a flexible support member configured to rest on a body of a recipient and
3 conform to a curvature of the body proximate to a location where the couplers are to be
4 coupled to the body;

5 a first engagement member depending from the support member and
6 configured to removably engage a first coupler proximate to a first coupling position on the
7 body;

8 a first coupler removably engaged with the first engagement member;
9 a first electrical cable attached between the first coupler and the support
10 member;

11 a second engagement member depending from the support member body and
12 configured to removably engage a second coupler proximate to a second coupling position on
13 the body of the recipient, the first engagement member being positioned closer than the
14 second engagement member to the first coupling position, the second engagement member
15 being positioned closer than the first engagement member to the second coupling position;
16 a second coupler removably engaged with the first engagement member;
17 a second electrical cable attached between the second coupler and the support
18 member.

19 54. The apparatus of claim 53 wherein the first electrical cable is attached to
the support member at a first attachment location, and the second electrical cable is attached to
the support member at a second attachment location.

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3 to the support member at a second attachment location, and further wherein the first and
4 second electrical cables are bundled together within the support member and exit the support
5 member adjacent to each other at a third attachment location.

55. The apparatus of claim 53 wherein the first coupler includes an actuator
1 tool to insert a percutaneous electrode in the recipient.

1 56. The apparatus of claim 53 wherein the first coupler includes an
2 electrically conductive clamp.

1 57. The apparatus of claim 53 wherein the first coupler includes an
2 electrically conductive alligator clip.

1 58. The apparatus of claim 53 wherein the first and second electrical cables
2 have approximately the same length.

1 59. The apparatus of claim 53 wherein the first electrical cable has a first
2 length and the second electrical cable has a second length different than the first length.

1 60. The apparatus of claim 53 wherein the support member has a central
2 axis, a first elongated portion positioned along the central axis, a second elongated portion
3 extending transversely to the central axis on first and second sides of the central axis, and a
4 third elongated portion positioned between the first and second elongated portions and
5 extending transversely to the central axis on the first and second sides of the central axis,
6 further wherein the first and second engagement members are positioned on one of the
7 elongated portions, with the first engagement member including a column positioned on the
8 first side of the central axis and the second engagement member including a column
9 positioned on the second side of the central axis.

1 61. The apparatus of claim 53 wherein the first coupler has an aperture and
2 wherein the first engagement member includes a column projecting away from the support
3 member and positioned to be received in the aperture of the first coupler.

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1 62. The apparatus of claim 53 wherein the support member is shaped to rest
2 on at least one of a back, a neck, a head and a leg of the recipient.

Surf CI
1 63. The apparatus of claim 53 wherein an arrangement of the first and
2 second engagement members corresponds at least approximately to an arrangement of the
3 first and second coupling positions.

Surf CI
1 64. The apparatus of claim 53 wherein the first and second coupling
2 positions are two of a larger plurality of coupling positions and the first and second
3 engagement members are two of a larger plurality of engagement positions, further wherein
4 an outline of the coupling positions defines a first shape and an outline of the engagement
5 members defines a corresponding second shape at least generally similar to the first shape.

Surf CI
1 65. An apparatus for supporting a plurality of percutaneous probe couplers
2 in position for removable coupling to a recipient, comprising:

3 a flexible support member configured to rest on a body of a recipient and
4 conform to a curvature of the body proximate to a coupling location where the couplers are
5 to be coupled to the body, the support member having a central axis;

6 a first engagement member depending from the support member and positioned
7 on a first side of the central axis, the first engagement member being configured to
8 removably engage a first coupler proximate to a first coupling position on the body of the
9 recipient, the first coupling position located on the first side of the central axis;

10 a first coupler removably engaged with the first engagement member;

11 a first electrical cable attached between the first coupler and the support
12 member;

13 a second engagement member depending from the support member and
14 positioned on a second side of the central axis opposite the first side of the central axis, the
15 second engagement member being configured to removably engage a second coupler
16 proximate to a second coupling position on the body of the recipient, the second coupling
17 position located on the second side of the central axis;

18 a second coupler removably engaged with the first engagement member; and

a second electrical cable attached between the second coupler and the support member.

66. The apparatus of claim 65 wherein the first electrical cable is attached to the support member at a first attachment location, and the second electrical cable is attached to the support member at a second attachment location, and further wherein the first and second electrical cables are bundled together within the support member and exit the support member adjacent to each other at a third attachment location.

67. The apparatus of claim 65 wherein the first coupler includes an actuator tool to insert a percutaneous electrode in the recipient.

68. The apparatus of claim 65 wherein the first coupler includes an electrically conductive clamp.

69. The apparatus of claim 65 wherein the first coupler includes an electrically conductive alligator clip.

70. The apparatus of claim 65 wherein the first and second electrical cables have approximately the same length.

71. The apparatus of claim 65 wherein the first electrical cable has a first length and the second electrical cable has a second length different than the first length.

72. The apparatus of claim 65 wherein the support member has a first elongated portion positioned along the central axis, a second elongated portion extending transversely to the central axis on first and second sides of the central axis, and a third elongated portion positioned between the first and second elongated portions and extending transversely to the central axis on the first and second sides of the central axis.

1 73. The apparatus of claim 65 wherein the first coupler has an aperture and
2 wherein the first engagement member includes a post projecting away from the support
3 member and positioned to be received in the aperture of the first coupler.

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2 74. The apparatus of claim 65 wherein the support member is shaped to rest
on at least one of a back, a neck, a head and a leg of the recipient.

1 75. The apparatus of claim 65 wherein an arrangement of the first and
2 second engagement members corresponds at least approximately to an arrangement of the
3 first and second coupling positions.

1 76. The apparatus of claim 65 wherein the first and second coupling
2 positions are two of a larger plurality of coupling positions and the first and second
3 engagement members are two of a larger plurality of engagement positions, further wherein
4 an outline of the coupling positions defines a first shape and an outline of the engagement
5 members defines a corresponding second shape at least generally similar to the first shape.

1 77. An apparatus for supporting a plurality of percutaneous probe couplers
2 in position for removable coupling to a recipient, comprising:

3 a flexible support member configured to rest on a back of a recipient and
4 conform to a curvature of the back proximate to a coupling region of the back, the support
5 member having a central axis, a first elongated portion positioned along the central axis a
6 second elongated portion extending transversely to the central axis on first and second sides
7 of the central axis and a third elongated portion between the first and second elongated
8 portions and extending transversely to the central axis on the first and second sides of the
9 central axis;

10 five pairs of engagement posts depending from the support member,
11 engagement posts of a first pair positioned on opposite sides of the central axis toward an
12 end of the first elongated portion, engagement posts of a second pair positioned at opposite
13 ends of the second elongated portion, engagement posts of a third pair positioned at opposite
14 ends of the third elongated portion, engagement posts of a fourth pair positioned on opposite

15 sides of the central axis between the first and second pair, and engagement posts of a fifth
16 pair positioned on opposite sides of the central axis between the second and third pair;
17 five pairs of couplers, each having an aperture with aperture walls removably
18 engaged with one of the engagement posts; and
19 five pairs of electrical cables with each electrical cable attached between one of
20 the couplers and the support member.

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21 78. The apparatus of claim 77 wherein each cable enters the support
22 member at a separate entry point and exits the support member at a common exit point, the
23 cables being bundled together external to the exit point and connected to a single connector.

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21 79. The apparatus of claim 77 wherein the first coupler includes an actuator
22 tool to insert a percutaneous electrode in the recipient.

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21 80. The apparatus of claim 77 wherein the first coupler includes an
22 electrically conductive clamp.

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21 81. The apparatus of claim 77 wherein the first coupler includes an
22 electrically conductive alligator clip.

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21 82. The apparatus of claim 77 wherein an outline of the coupling positions
22 defines a first shape and an outline of the engagement members defines a corresponding
23 second shape at least generally similar to the first shape.

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21 83. An apparatus for supporting couplers for removable coupling to a
22 recipient during therapy administration and/or recipient monitoring, the apparatus
23 comprising:

4 support member configured to rest on a body of the recipient, the support
5 member having a first coupler location proximate to a first coupling position of the body of
6 the recipient, the support member further having a second coupler location proximate to a
7 second coupling position of the body of the recipient, the first coupler location being
8 configured to carry a first coupler, the second coupler location being configured to carry a

second coupler, the first coupler location being positioned closer than the second coupler location to the first coupling position on the body of the recipient;

a first coupler configured to be operatively coupled to the body and removably supported at the first coupler location;

a second coupler configured to be operatively coupled to the body and removably supported at the second coupler location;

a recipient care unit configured to deliver therapy and/or monitor a condition of the recipient; and

a first link between the care unit and the first coupler and a second link between the care unit and the second coupler.

84. The apparatus of claim 83 wherein the recipient care unit includes a source of electrical current.

85. The apparatus of claim 83 wherein the recipient care unit includes a source of medicament. *R*

86. The apparatus of claim 83 wherein the recipient care unit includes a monitor of electrical signals.

87. The apparatus of claim 83 wherein the first coupler is moveable relative to the support member between an attached position with the first coupler engaged with the support member at the first coupler location, a detached position with the first coupler disengaged from the first coupler location, and a coupled position with the first coupler operatively coupled to the recipient at the first coupling position, the first coupler having an electrical contact positioned to connect to a percutaneous electrical probe inserted into the patient, and further wherein the first link includes a flexible electrical cable.

88. The apparatus of claim 83 wherein the support member has a central axis, a first elongated portion positioned along the central axis, a second elongated portion extending transversely to the central axis on first and second sides of the central axis, and a third elongated portion positioned between the first and second elongated portions and

5 extending transversely to the central axis on the first and second sides of the central axis,
6 further wherein the first and second coupler locations are positioned on one of the elongated
7 portions, with the first coupler location including a post positioned on the first side of the
8 central axis and the second coupler location including a post positioned on the second side of
9 the central axis.

1 89. The apparatus of claim 83 wherein the first coupler has an aperture and
2 wherein the support member includes a post at the first coupler location positioned to be
3 received in the aperture of the first coupler.

1 90. The apparatus of claim 83 wherein the support member is flexible and
2 resilient to conform to a surface of the body.

1 91. The apparatus of claim 83 wherein the support member is shaped to rest
2 on at least one of a back, a neck, a head and a leg of the recipient.

1 92. The apparatus of claim 83 wherein an arrangement of the first and
2 second coupler locations corresponds at least approximately to an arrangement of the first
3 and second coupling positions.

1 93. The apparatus of claim 83 wherein the first and second coupling
2 positions are two of a larger plurality of coupling positions and the first and second coupler
3 locations are two of a larger plurality of coupler locations, further wherein an outline of the
4 coupling positions defines a first shape and an outline of the coupler locations defines a
5 corresponding second shape at least generally similar to the first shape.

1 94. A method for coupling therapy and/or monitoring equipment to a
2 recipient, comprising:

3 positioning a support member against a body of a recipient proximate to a
4 coupling area of the body and spaced apart from first and second coupling positions in the
5 coupling area;

6 supporting a first coupler relative to the body at a first coupler location of the
7 support member proximate to the first coupling position;
8 supporting a second coupler relative to the body at a second coupler location of
9 the support member proximate to the second coupling position;
10 removing the first coupler from the first coupler location of the support
11 member and coupling the first coupler to the body at the first coupling position; and
12 removing the second coupler from the second coupler location of the support
13 member and coupling the second coupler to the body at the second coupling position.

1 95. The method of claim 94 wherein positioning the support member
2 includes positioning a first elongated portion of the support member along a longitudinal axis
3 of the coupling area, positioning a second elongated portion of the support member
4 transverse to the longitudinal axis, and positioning a third elongated portion of the support
5 member transverse to the longitudinal axis between the first and second elongated portions.

1 96. The method of claim 94 wherein coupling the first coupler to the body
2 includes electrically coupling the first coupler to the body, and wherein the method further
3 includes transmitting electrical signals to the body.

1 97. The method of claim 94 wherein supporting the first coupler includes
2 supporting the first coupler closer than the second coupler to the first coupling position.

1 98. The method of claim 94, further comprising conforming the support
2 member to a curved surface of the body.

1 99. The method of claim 94 wherein positioning the support member against
2 the body includes positioning the support member against at least one of a back, a neck, a
3 head and a leg of the recipient.

1 100. The method of claim 94 wherein the first and second coupling positions
2 are two of a larger plurality of coupling positions and the first and second coupler locations
3 are two of a larger plurality of coupler locations and wherein the method further comprises

4 orienting the support member with an outline of the coupler locations being generally similar
5 to an outline defined by the coupling positions.

1 101. The method of claim 94 wherein coupling the first coupler includes
2 coupling the first coupler to a percutaneous probe at the first coupling position.

1 102. A method for coupling therapy and/or monitoring equipment to a
2 recipient, comprising:

3 positioning a support member against a body of a recipient proximate to a
4 coupling area of the body, the support member being elongated along a support member axis;
5 supporting a first coupler relative to the body at a first coupler location of the
6 support member proximate to a first coupling position of the body;

7 supporting a second coupler relative to the body at a second coupler location of
8 the support member proximate to a second coupling position of the body with the first
9 coupler positioned closer than the second coupler to the support member axis;

10 removing the first coupler from the first coupler location of the support
11 member and coupling the first coupler to the body at the first coupling position; and

12 removing the second coupler from the second coupler location of the support
13 member and coupling the second coupler to the body at the second coupling position.

1 103. The method of claim 102 wherein positioning the support member
2 includes positioning a first elongated portion of the support member along a longitudinal axis
3 of the coupling area, positioning a second elongated portion of the support member
4 transverse to the longitudinal axis, and positioning a third elongated portion of the support
5 member transverse to the longitudinal axis between the first and second elongated portions.

1 104. The method of claim 102 wherein coupling the first coupler to the body
2 includes electrically coupling the first coupler to the body, and wherein the method further
3 includes transmitting electrical signals to the body.

1 105. The method of claim 102 wherein supporting the first coupler includes
2 supporting the first coupler closer than the second coupler to the first coupling position.

1 106. The method of claim 102, further comprising conforming the support
2 member to a curved surface of the body.

1 107. The method of claim 102 wherein positioning the support member
2 against the body includes positioning the support member against at least one of a back, a
3 neck, a head and a leg of the recipient.

1 108. The method of claim 102 wherein the first and second coupling
2 positions are two of a larger plurality of coupling positions and the first and second coupler
3 locations are two of a larger plurality of coupler locations and wherein the method further
4 comprises orienting the support member with an outline of the coupler locations being
5 generally similar to an outline defined by the coupling positions.

1 109. The method of claim 102 wherein coupling the first coupler includes
2 coupling the first coupler to a percutaneous probe at the first coupling position.

1 110. A method for coupling therapy and/or monitoring equipment to a
2 recipient, comprising:
3 positioning a support member against a body of a recipient proximate to a
4 coupling area;
5 supporting a first coupler relative to the body at a first coupler location of the
6 support member proximate to a first coupling position on the body;
7 supporting a second coupler relative to the body at a second coupler location of
8 the support member proximate to a second coupling position on the body, the first coupler
9 location being positioned closer than the second coupler location to the first coupling
10 position;
11 removing the first coupler from the first coupler location of the support
12 member and coupling the first coupler to the body at the first coupling position; and
13 removing the second coupler from the second coupler location of the support
14 member and coupling the second coupler to the body at the second coupling position.

1 111. The method of claim 110 wherein positioning the support member
2 includes positioning a first elongated portion of the support member along a longitudinal axis
3 of the coupling area, positioning a second elongated portion of the support member
4 transverse to the longitudinal axis, and positioning a third elongated portion of the support
5 member transverse to the longitudinal axis between the first and second elongated portions.

1 112. The method of claim 110 wherein coupling the first coupler to the body
2 includes electrically coupling the first coupler to the body, and wherein the method further
3 includes transmitting electrical signals to the body.

1 113. The method of claim 110 wherein coupling the first coupler to the body
2 includes electrically coupling the first coupler to the body, and wherein the method further
3 includes receiving electrical signals from the body.

1 114. The method of claim 110 wherein the first coupler is configured to
2 provide liquid medicament to the recipient and wherein the method further comprises
3 delivering liquid medicament to the first coupler and the recipient when the first coupler is
4 coupled to the recipient at the first coupling position.

1 115. The method of claim 110 wherein removing the first coupler includes
2 removing the first coupler from an aperture of the support member.

1 116. The method of claim 110 wherein removing the first coupler includes
2 removing the first coupler from a post of the support member.

1 117. The method of claim 110, further comprising conforming the support
2 member to a curved surface of the body.

1 118. The method of claim 110 wherein positioning the support member
2 against the body includes positioning the support member against at least one of a back, a
3 neck, a head and a leg of the recipient.

1 119. The method of claim 110 wherein positioning the support member
2 includes orienting the support member with an arrangement of the first and second coupler
3 locations corresponding at least approximately to an arrangement of the first and second
4 coupling positions.

1 120. The method of claim 110 wherein the first and second coupling
2 positions are two of a larger plurality of coupling positions and the first and second coupler
3 locations are two of a larger plurality of coupler locations and wherein the method further
4 comprises orienting the support member with an outline of the coupler locations being
5 generally similar to an outline defined by the coupling positions.

1 121. The method of claim 110 wherein coupling the first coupler includes
2 coupling the first coupler to a percutaneous probe at the first coupling position.

1 122. The method of claim 110 wherein coupling the first coupler includes
2 clamping the first coupler to a percutaneous electrode inserted in the recipient.

1 123. A method for administering percutaneous electrical therapy to a
2 recipient, comprising:
3 aligning a flexible support member with a body of a recipient;
4 positioning the support member against the body proximate to a coupling area;
5 conforming the support member to a curvature of the body
6 supporting a first coupler relative to the body at a first coupler location of the
7 support member proximate to a first coupling position of the body;
8 supporting a second coupler relative to the body at a second coupler location of
9 the support member proximate to a second coupling position of the body with the first
10 coupler location positioned closer than the second coupler location to the first coupling
11 position,
12 removing the first coupler from the first coupler location of the support
13 member and electrically coupling the first coupler to a first percutaneous probe positioned in
14 the body at the first coupling position;

15 removing the second coupler from the second coupler location of the support
16 member and electrically coupling the second coupler to a second percutaneous probe in the
17 body at the second coupling position; and
18 electrically coupling the first and second couplers to a source of electrical
19 potential.

1 124. The method of claim 123, further comprising actuating the first coupler
2 to insert the first percutaneous probe in the recipient.

1 125. The apparatus of claim 123 wherein the support member has a central
2 axis, a first elongated portion positioned along the central axis, a second elongated portion
3 extending transversely to the central axis on first and second sides of the central axis, and a
4 third elongated portion positioned between the first and second elongated portions and
5 extending transversely to the central axis on the first and second sides of the central axis,
6 further wherein the first and second coupler locations are positioned on one of the elongated
7 portions, with the support member including a post positioned at the first coupler location on
8 the first side of the central axis and the support member further including a post positioned at
9 the second coupler location on the second side of the central axis.

1 126. The method of claim 123 wherein the first coupler has an aperture and
2 wherein removing the first coupler includes disengaging the aperture with a post of the
3 support member.

1 127. The method of claim 123, further comprising resting the support
2 member on at least one of a back, a neck, a head and a leg of the recipient.

1 128. The method of claim 123, further comprising orienting the support
2 member with an arrangement of the first and second coupler locations corresponding at least
3 approximately to an arrangement of the first and second coupling positions.

1 129. A method for administering percutaneous electrical therapy to a
2 recipient, comprising:

3 aligning a flexible support member with a body of a recipient by aligning a first
4 elongated portion of the support member with a spine of the recipient and positioning second
5 and third elongated portions of the support member transverse to the spine;

6 conforming the support member to the body proximate to a coupling area;

7 removing five pairs of electrical couplers from the support member and
8 connecting the electrical couplers to percutaneous probes inserted into the recipient while the
9 electrical couplers remain connected to the support member with electrical cables, wherein
10 removing the five pairs of electrical couplers includes removing couplers of a first pair
11 positioned toward an end of the first elongated portion, removing couplers of a second pair
12 positioned at opposite ends of the second elongated portion, removing couplers of a third pair
13 positioned at opposite ends of the third elongated portion, removing couplers of a fourth pair
14 positioned between the first and second pair, and removing couplers of a fifth pair positioned
15 between the second and third pair; and

16 electrically connecting each coupler to an electrically conductive percutaneous
17 probe inserted in the body.

130. The method of claim 129, further comprising electrically coupling each
coupler to a source of electrical potential.

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B20*

*add
C'*